

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 095848  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: BRIAN S. KIRKPATRICK

APPROVED BY: AF/W:TWMSMITH

-----004611 140650Z /21

R 140058Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY 9554

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095848

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 3411 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON,  
PARIS, BONN, MOSCOW, LUSAKA, DAR ES SALAAM, BANGU  
STUTTGART, LUBUMBASHI, BUKAVU, SECDEF 08 APR

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PEPR, TSPA, CG, CW, UR, XJ

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH OTRAG OFFICIALS

REF: A) STATE 77496; B) BONN 5086; C) LUBUMBASHI 255

1. SUMMARY: OTRAG OFFICIALS LUBERMAN, PIEKATZ, AND TUCHHANDLER  
CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 6 TO DISCUSS UPCOMING ROCKET TEST AND  
RELATED PUBLICITY PLANS. SECOND LAUNCH IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR AFTER  
MID-MAY. OTRAG PRESIDENT LUTZ KAYSER IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN  
ZAIRE IN EARLY MAY TO PREPARE FOR THE LAUNCH AND MIGHT RETURN HERE  
IN EARLY JUNE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR/PRESS BRIEFING OTRAG IS  
ORGANIZING. THE PURPOSE OF JUNE PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT WILL BE  
TO COUNTER SOME OF THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY THE PROJECT IS CONTINUING  
TO RECEIVE (SUCH AS THE RECENT PENTHOUSE ARTICLE). THERE REMAINS A  
POSSIBILITY THAT GOZ MAY WISH TO ORGANIZE A GROUP TOUR OF LAUNCH  
SITE, BUT OTRAG, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 095848

SUCH A TOUR. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OTRAG REQUEST, AMBASSADOR MET WITH KLAUS PIEKATZ,  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF OTRAG'S ZAIRE  
OPERATION, DR. K. TUCHHANDLER, HIS ASSISTANT,  
AND DR. LUBERMAN OF THEIR MUNCIH OFFICE. LUBERMAN, WHO WAS MAKING  
ONE OF HIS FREQUENT VISITS TO ZAIRE, EXPLAINED CURRENT STATE OF

OTRAG OPERATIONS AND PLANS TO GENERATE SOME POSITIVE PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING SECOND TEST LAUNCH. OTRAG IS IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM LUBUMBASHI TO KINSHASA; PIEKATZ WILL CONTINUE TO RUN OFFICE. THEY HAD PLANNED TO SET UP A SEMINAR/PRESS CONFERENCE IN KINSHASA FOR PERSONS WITH LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE OTRAG OPERATION (E.G. AMBASSADORS OF NEIGHBORING OR OTHERWISE CONCERNED COUNTRIES, "RESPONSIBLE" JOURNALISTS, AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES) BEFORE SECOND TEST IN MAY. THIS WOULD HAVE INCLUDED A BRIEFING BY KAYSER, A FILM, AND A RECEPTION. ALTHOUGH THE GOZ HAD CONSIDERED DOING THIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACTUAL LAUNCH, AND POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE A TRIP TO THE SITE TO WATCH THE TEST, KAYSER OBJECTED ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, SAYING THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH COUNTDOWN AND LAUNCH ITSELF. OTRAG HAS REQUESTED THAT MAIN PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT BE DELAYED UNTIL EARLY JUNE. FROM PRESIDENCY COUNSELOR BOKANA'S REACTION, LUBERMAN BELIEVES THAT THE GOZ WILL AGREE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOZ MIGHT EXTEND TO SELECTED DIGNITARIES AN INVITATION TO VIEW THE LAUNCH. LUBERMAN SAID OTRAG IN GENERAL IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TOURS OF THE SITE, AND IN FACT, THERE IS LITTLE THERE TO SEE EXCEPT DURING LAUNCH PERIOD. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT IF REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSY OR CONSULATE WISHED TO VISIT THE SITE, SOMETHING COULD BE ARRANGED.

3. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING ON OTRAG ACTIVITIES AND NOTED VALUE OF THOUGHTFUL PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 095848

SINCE AS ALREADY EVIDENT AN OPERATION LIKE OTRAG CAN EASILY BE MISINTERPRETED OR MISREPRESENTED. LUBERMAN MENTIONED UNINTENTIONAL TIMING OF THE LAST TEST,(WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE ARRIVAL IN SHABA OF FRG VICE CHANCELLOR GENSCHER), AS THE SORT OF HAPPENSTANCE WHICH HAS STRENGTHENED SUSPICION THAT THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN OTRAG AND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

4. LUBERMAN'S COMMENTS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF OTRAG OPEATIONS ARE BEING POUCHED TO AF/C. CUTLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MISSILE SITES, ROCKETS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE095848  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BRIAN S. KIRKPATRICK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780160-0519  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780454/aaaabtud.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 539501b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 77496, 78 BONN 5086, 78 LUBUMBASHI 255  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2961101  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEETING WITH OTRAG OFFICIALS  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PEPR, TSPA, CG, CW, UR, XJ, GE, OTRAG  
**To:** CONAKRY  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/539501b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014